

Report to the Auburn City Council

Action Item
Agenda Item No.

City Manager Approval

To:

Mayor and City Council Members

From:

Valerie Harris, Chief of Police

Date:

August 10, 2009

Subject:

Acceptance of a \$1000 .00 Grant From the Target Corporation

The Issue

Should the City Council accept a \$1000.00 grant from the Target Corporation that was presented to the Police Department at National Night Out on August 4, 2009? If accepted, the grant will provide the Police Department \$1000.00 towards the purchase of surveillance equipment.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Based on our research, Staff is recommending that by Resolution the City Council accept the grant.

<u>Background</u>

The Auburn Police Department is continually working to improve the safety, operations and efficiencies of our investigation services, while utilizing technology to enhance safety and improve operational effectiveness. This effectiveness includes tools that will improve their ability to prevent crime, and apprehend and prosecute persons involved in criminal activity. This grant will assist in purchasing some much needed surveillance equipment to achieve this effectiveness.

This grant was presented to the Police Department at National Night Out. National Night Out is a community-police partnership held the first Tuesday of every August since 1984 sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch in the United States and Canada. It aims to increase awareness about police programs in communities, such as drug prevention, town watch, and other anti-crime efforts. Initially communities held lights-on vigils. Now, many communities hold block parties, festivals, and other events to help bring neighbors together. The Target Corporation is a huge supporter of this event.

Since 1946, Target has given 5% of its income to communities. That adds up to over \$3 million each and every week. Using a Quote from the Target Corporation website, they "realize complex and diverse challenges facing our communities are most effectively resolved through public and private partnerships." This grant is just a small gesture from the Target Corporation in this valuable partnership.

Alternatives Available to Council; Implications of Alternatives

- 1. Proceed with Staff Recommendation
- 2. Do not proceed with staff recommendation

Fiscal Impact

If accepted, the funds will be used by the Police Department to purchase surveillance equipment. The purchase will not require any additional city funds; however, as funds become available, additional equipment will be purchased to enhance the surveillance capabilities the Police Department needs to prevent criminal activity in the city of Auburn.

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